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PRADO'S SWEET RIDE WIRES FIELD IN GRADE II, \$200,000 FALLS CITY 'CAP

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018) – Darrell and Sadie Brommer's 6-year-old homebred mare **Prado's Sweet Ride** led every step of the way and drew off in deep stretch for a decisive 4 ¾-length triumph over odds-on 3-5 favorite **Devine Miss Grey** in the 103rd running of the \$200,000 Falls City Handicap (Grade II) for fillies and mares on Thanksgiving Day at Churchill Downs.

Prado's Sweet Ride, trained by **Chris Block** and ridden by **Florent Geroux**, ran 1 1/8 miles over a fast track in 1:50.50.

Breaking from post No. 6 in the field of seven, Chicago-based Prado's Sweet Ride broke on top and dictated the terms through fractions of :23.93, :48.60 and 1:13.17. Devine Miss Grey stalked the pace from the inside and came within 1 ½ lengths of the leader at the top of the stretch, but Prado's Sweet Ride turned back the challenge and drew away late while being geared down in the final yards.

"I really didn't expect to be on the lead but I thought we would be close to the pace," Geroux said. "Things worked out well. We had a perfect pace up front when (Divine Miss Grey) didn't break that sharply. She dug in well down the lane and was very impressive this afternoon."

Prado's Sweet Ride, who carried 118 pounds during the victory, is an Illinois-bred daughter of the Block-trained stallion Fort Prado out of the General Meeting mare Excellent Idea.

The victory was worth \$121,520 to her owners and brought Prado's Sweet Ride's career earnings to \$548,914 from a record of 8-5-7 in 30 starts. This was the second graded stakes win of her career and both have come at Churchill Downs. In 2015, she scored a 9-1 upset in the \$100,000 Regret (GIII) with a head victory over **Lady Zuzu**.

"This has been a very good Thanksgiving for us thanks to this filly," said Block's assistant trainer **Martin Martinez**. "She ran so big this afternoon and trained so well all season. She really handled the dirt well this afternoon and she has in the past. She's been very versatile and was very impressive today."

For Block, this was his second Falls City Handicap victory. He won the 2010 Thanksgiving Day renewal with 3-year-old filly **Dundalk Dust**.

Prado's Sweet Ride returned \$13.80, \$4.80 and \$3.60 as the 5-1 second betting choice. Devine Miss Grey, who carried the 122-pound starting high weight under **Tyler Gaffalione**, finished second and returned \$2.40 and \$2.10. **Dutch Parrot** was another length back in third and paid \$4 to show under **Ricardo Santana Jr.** while carrying 116 pounds.

Red Dane (ITY), **Dreamcall**, **Skeptic** and **Mannerly** completed the order of finish. **Honor Ride** was scratched.

The Falls City is the traditional main dish on the Thanksgiving Day menu at Churchill Downs – a Louisville tradition since 1969 where more than 8,000 turkey dinners are served with all the trimmings, making it the largest number anywhere in the region.

This year's holiday program also included the 45th running of the \$100,000 Cardinal Handicap (GIII), a 1 1/8-mile test for fillies and mares over the Matt Winn Turf Course, which was won by **English Affair**.

Racing at Churchill Downs resumes on "Black Friday" with a 12-race program that begins at 1 p.m. (all times Eastern). The 144th running of the \$500,000 Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (GI) highlights a program that also includes the 28th running of the \$200,000 Mrs. Revere (GII) for 3-year-old fillies at 1 1/16 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course. Also, there's a \$196,438 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot, which covers Races 7-12 starting at 3:57 p.m. and a \$6,415 carryover in the finale's \$1 Super Hi-5.

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ENGLISH AFFAIR SPLITS HORSES LATE TO WIN GRADE III CARDINAL 'CAP

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018) – English Affair split horses in late stretch to score a half-length victory over **Amboseli** in Thursday's 45th running of the \$100,000 Cardinal Handicap (Grade III) for fillies and mares on Thanksgiving Day at Churchill Downs.

English Affair, a 4-year-old filly owned and bred by **Brad Kelley's Calumet Farm**, ran 1 1/8 miles over "yielding" turf in 1:54.26 to collect the first stakes win of her career. **Corey Lanerie** rode the winner for trainer **Rusty Arnold II**.

Breaking from post position No. 5 in the field of 10, English Affair raced in mid-pack as 37-1 longshot **Unbridled Escape** dictated the pace through fractions of :24.79, :50.62 and 1:16.91. As the leader weakened on the far turn, 3-2 favorite **I Remember Mama** rallied wide with Amboseli just behind her. Lanerie and English Affair patiently waited for a room along the inside hedge and swung out at the top of the stretch when an opening never materialized. I Remember Mama had a half-length advantage with **La Manta Gris** just to her inside and Amboseli on her right hip. English Affair found room between the tiring La Manta Gris and leader I Remember Mama, and grabbed the lead with a sixteenth of a mile left to run and edged clear for the victory.

"She handled things perfectly today," said Lanerie, who won four races Thursday. "I was just the passenger. We had a great trip the entire way around the track and when I asked for her best stuff, she dug in and finished really well. I took her back early to settle and waited for a spot to open."

The triumph was worth \$58,900 and increased the Kentucky-bred's earnings to \$197,643. She boasts a record of 3-5-1 in 12 starts. Previously, English Affair was placed second in the \$125,000 Dowager (GIII) over 1 1/2 miles on turf at Keeneland.

English Affair, who carried 117 pounds Thursday, returned mutuels of \$8, \$4.80 and \$3 as the 3-1 second betting choice. Amboseli, ridden by **Florent Geroux** at 117 pounds, returned \$6.80 and \$3.80. Third-place finisher I Remember Mama, under **Brian Hernandez Jr.** and 118 pounds, paid \$2.60 to show.

The order of finish was completed by La Manta Gris, **Coachwhip**, **Coco Channel**, **Lipstick City**, **Bonnie Arch**, Unbridled Escape and **Space Cadet**.

English Affair is a daughter of English Channel out of the Colonial Affair mare Lady Melesi.

"She's a typical English Channel that is getting better with age," Arnold said. "We've run her going a couple of different distances and it just shows her versatility. Today's race came up and it was the perfect spot to run her in."

FALLS CITY QUOTES

Florent Geroux, jockey of PRADO'S SWEET RIDE (winner): "I really didn't expect to be on the lead but I thought we would be close to the pace. Things worked out well. We had a perfect pace up front when (Divine Miss Grey) didn't break that sharply. She dug in well down the lane and was very impressive this afternoon."

Martin Martinez, assistant trainer of PRADO'S SWEET RIDE (winner): "This has been a very good Thanksgiving for us thanks to this filly. She ran so big this afternoon and trained so well all season. She really handled the dirt well this afternoon and she has in the past. She's been very versatile and was very impressive today."

Tyler Gaffalione, jockey of DIVINE MISS GREY (runner-up): "We were up against it with the draw. She didn't really like being at the rail and having the kickback in her face."

Danny Gargan, trainer of DIVINE MISS GREY (runner-up): "It was a tough trip because she hates to be inside of horses."

Ricardo Santana Jr., jockey of DUTCH PARROT (third): "I thought she ran well this afternoon. She settled nicely up the backstretch but just couldn't get to the winner in the stretch."

CARDINAL QUOTES

Corey Lanerie, jockey of ENGLISH AFFAIR (winner): "She handled things perfectly today. I was just the passenger. We had a great trip the entire way around the track and when I asked for her best stuff, she dug in and finished really well. I took her back early to settle and waited for a spot to open."

Rusty Arnold II, trainer of ENGLISH AFFAIR (winner): "She's a typical English Channel that is getting better with age. We've run her going a couple of different distances and it just shows her versatility. Today's race (at 1 1/8 miles) came up and it was the perfect spot to run her in."

Florent Geroux, jockey of AMBOSELI (runner-up): "We had a really good trip. My horse tried really hard down the stretch but just couldn't quite get to the winner."

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